Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 02444 211320Z

41
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 AID-20 IGA-02 H-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

OMB-01 DRC-01 /114 W
---------- 005645
R 211000Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6265
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
USCINCNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2444

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP EAID MARR PFOR EG
SUBJ: STATUS OF SOFA AGREEMENT

REF: CAIRO 2281 (NOTAL)

1. AT DINNER FOR CODEL BYRD TWO EVENINGS AGO MFA LEGAL COUNSELOR ABDEL HAMID TOLD ME HIS CONSULTATIONS WITH MINISTRY OF WAR LAWYERS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AND AN AGREED GOE WORKING LEVEL RECOMMENDATION HAS BEEN PREPARED. THIS WILL NOW HAVE TO BE REFERRED TO FOREIGN MINISTER FOR APPROVAL. ABDEL HAMID CLAIMED HIS RECOMMENDATION TAKES INTO ACCOUNT BOTH POLICY AND PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF THE SOFA PROBLEM AND THE NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT. HE DECLINED DIVULGE DETAILS, NOTING THAT AT THIS STAGE IT IS NO MORE THAN A RECOMMENDATION FOR HIGHER LEVEL CONSIDERATION.

2. ABDEL HAMID ALSO CLAIMED HE HAD TOUCHED BASE WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HATEM, WHO HAD INDICATED HE PREFERRED TO WAIT UNTIL FAHMY'S RETURN SO THAT THE LATTER CAN HANDLE THE MATTER. YESTERDAY MFA UNDERSECRETARY ABDEL GHAFFAR TOLD ME THE SAME THING. HE ADDED FAHMY IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 02444 211320Z

NEW YORK HAD BEEN APPRISED OF OUR NOTE AND PROMISED BRING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

SUBJECT TO HIS ATTENTION AS SOON AS HE RETURNS.

3. I WAS AT THE AIRPORT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO GREET FAHMY ON HIS RETURN. THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY AT THAT TIME RAISE SUBJECT WITH HIM, BUT I WAS ABLE TO DO SO WITH HIS CHEF DE CABINET, OMAR SIRRI. HE APPEARED TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT FROM MFA MESSAGES. I EMPHASIZED NEED FOR EXPEDITIOUS CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT NOW THAT NIMBUS STAR IS UNDERWAY. I HOPED FAHMY COULD MAKE A DECISION ON MFA LEGAL DEPT'S RECOMMENDATION SOMETIME TODAY, HOPEFULLY BEFORE THE MINISTER GETS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN UPCOMING BRANDT VISIT. SIRRI UNDERTOOK TO DO WHAT HE CAN TO URGENTLY BRING SUBJECT TO FAHMY'S ATTENTION.
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Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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EO Systematic Review
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TAGS: BEXP, EAID, MARR, PFOR, EG, (HAMID, ABDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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